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## PRESS RELEASE

**Subject:** Seminar for business community leaders on key principles of WTO Customs Valuation Agreement

**Location:** Almaty General Customs Department building

**Time:** 18 July 2008, 10 AM.

### **USAID Project Educates Business Leaders on the Principles of WTO Customs Valuation Agreement**

**Almaty, Kazakhstan** – The USAID Regional Trade Liberalization and Customs Project and the Customs Control Committee under the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Kazakhstan will conduct an educational seminar for the business community leaders on the **key principles of the WTO Customs Valuation Agreement**.

The key objective of this seminar is to discuss and elucidate key principles of the WTO agreement on customs valuation, as well as to discuss the rights and responsibilities of the traders and exporters in conducting customs valuation.

Seminar's participants will include **Mr. Brian O'Shea**, a recognized international expert with over twenty years of experience in the areas of design and implementation of customs and trade policy. His expertise includes customs valuation; customs automated systems, WTO accession and compliance, and legal reform of foreign investment regulation, business licensing and registration. Mr. O'Shea's recent work includes a comprehensive assessment of Chapter 39 of Customs Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan, "Determination of the customs value of goods", to assess compliance with WTO Customs Valuation Agreement.

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*United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) RTLC project works since 2007 to support economic development of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan through trade, transit, and customs reform. For more information on other USAID projects in Kazakhstan and Central Asia, please visit <http://centralasia.usaid.gov>.*